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Journal of the Siege of Neiſs, 1758.

THE Marquis de Ville begun, on the 4th of Auguſt, to inveſt the Fortreſs of Neiſs on the Side of Neuſtadt; but the Side of the Cittadel remained open till the 30th of September, when Count Harſch joined M. de Ville, and took the Command of thoſe two combined Corps. The ſame Day, the Enemy cauſed all the Cattle of the Villages about the Place to be brought off: But Meaſures had been ſo well taken, that the Garriſon was in Want of nothing, and found itſelf abundantly provided with every Thing neceſſary for its Subſiſtence.

On the 3d of October, the Body of the Place, as well as the Cittadel, were inveſted on all Sides by an Army of about 20,000 Men, the Head Quarters whereof were at firſt at Stephanſdorff, and afterwards at Gieſmanſdorff.

On the 5th, the Enemy erected two large Redoubts on his Right towards Klumpenau, and placed ſome Field Pieces therein, and two more Redoubts on their Left towards the Rochusberg: The Peaſants and Soldiers had, in the mean While, made Gabions and Faſcines, and ſtored them in particular Places, together with thick Planks, Boards, and Tools neceſſary for the Siege.

Lieutenant Boda, of the Regiment of Preiſac, was made Priſoner the 12th. The Enemy was, that Day, reinforced by two Battalions of the Regiment of Mercy, and loſt conſiderably by Deſertion, principally among the Saxons, Bavarians, and the Soldiers of the Hungarian Regiment of Simſchæn.

The 15th, a Train of Artillery and Ammunition arrived at the Enemy's Camp; as did,

On the 16th, two Battalions of Palaviciny and Old Wolfenbuttel. The Croats gave the Alarm to ſeveral of our Guards; but the Fire of our Artillery and Muſketry obliged them to retire: And, according to the Report of Deſerters, the Enemy loſt alſo a great many Men and Horſes by a pretty brisk Cannonading from the Town upon their Camp, which they had pitched too near the Cittadel; and were thereby obliged to remove it, the following Night, 800 Paces farther back.

A freſh Train of Artillery, and about a hundred Waggons of Ammunition, arrived, on the 20th, at the Enemy's Camp, whoſe Diſpoſitions ſhewed that they were upon the Point of opening the Trenches; and ſuch Meaſures were taken in the Place, as were moſt proper to interrupt their Operations.

Capt. Lippe, of the Bavarian Regiment of Moravitzky, was taken Priſoner by our Patrols, on the 24th. The Deſertion was great amongſt the Enemy. They alſo received, that Day, a large Train of heavy Artillery, and a great deal of Ammunition; and the Deſerters reported, that, ſince the coming up of this new Supply, there were 100 Pieces of Cannon, 40 Mortars, and a large Quantity of Ammunition, in the Camp.

In the Night of the 26th, the Enemy erected two Batteries of Cannon, and one of Mortars. They began at Day-break to fire from them upon the Sluice N° 14. Their Deſign was to let the Water out by deſtroying the Sluice, and afterwards to attempt an Attack upon ſome of the Outworks which are on that Side. They cauſed alſo the Fore-Ditch to be founded by the Croats, who were however ſoon obliged, by the Fire of our Artillery and Muſketry, to retire with great Loſs. The Sluice was immediately repaired, and there ſtill remained Water in the Fore-Ditch eight Feet deep. The Cannon from the Place and Outworks diſmounted alſo their Batteries. But Lieutenant Henſchke, of the Artillery, was unfortuuately killed upon the Rampart by a Cannon-Shot.

The following Night the Enemy raiſed a Redoubt oppoſite to the Fort Bombardier; and deſigned erecting a Battery thereon; but the Cannon of the Cittadel, as well as that of the other Works that could bear upon that Redoubt, ſoon deſtroyed all the Works thereof. The Enemy begun alſo that Night a Parrallel behind the Mehrengaſſe.

The 27th, the Enemy repaired their Batteries in the Night, and continued firing; but their Cannon was again diſmounted even before Night; and the Deſerters, who came over in great Numbers, all ſaid, that the Beſiegers had ſuſtained there a conſiderable Loſs of Men, and even of ſome Pieces of Cannon, which had been rendered uſeleſs.

The 28th, they fired chiefly upon the Town, but without much Succeſs. Lieut. Lankiſch of the Regiment of Manſtein was killed in the Guard-Room by the burſting of a Bomb; There was alſo one Soldier killed, and two wounded in the Barracks. The ſame Day, the Enemy were reinforced by three Battalions, the Names of them unknown. They finiſh'd their Parallel in the Night, and made their Approaches within 200 Paces of the Covert-way of the Cittadel. They alſo made a large Redoubt at the Bottom of the Carnickelberg; but the Fire of the Cannon and ſmall Arms, which was continued without Intermiſſion, joined to the Granadoes and Stones which were poured down inceſſantly during the whole Night and the following Day, killed a great many of the Beſiegers.

The 29th, the Enemy made a continual Fire upon the Town, which was as briſkly anſwered. On the other Hand, they repaired their Approaches, as well as their Batteries and Redoubts; but our Fire greatly incommoded them. Theirs had a good deal ſlackened, their Batteries having almoſt been diſmounted; but it was renewed the 30th in the the Morning, and continued the 31ſt; but the Fire from the Town ſilenced it towards Evening. There were two Soldiers killed and one wounded in the Barracks. The Enemy was reinforced the ſame Day with four Battalions, which having incamped too near the Cittadel, were expoſed to a ſmart Cannonading from it.

In the Night of the 1ſt of November, the Enemy withdrew their Cannons and Mortars from off the Batteries, and alſo begun drawing off their Artillery; ſeveral Pieces of Cannon, and ſome hundreds of Waggons with Ammunition having been carried over the Neiſs near Klumpenau, and taken the Road to Ziegenhals. They have however been at work upon their Approaches and Redoubts; and our Artillery has been kept in conſtant Play. The Deſerters, the Number of whom has been greater this Night, than it had yet been before, have all affirmed, that the Loſs of the Beſiegers had been very conſiderable, On the 2d, the Enemy continued that whole Day, and the following Night, ſending back the Cannon, Mortars, and the Ammunition and Baggage-Waggons. The Deſerters reported, that the King was approaching with his Army.

In the Night of the 3d, the Enemy raiſed, within 500 Paces of the Cittadel, a large Redoubt, which, in a few Hours, was demoliſhed by the Fire of our Batteries.

On the 4th in the Afternoon, they at laſt marched off in three Columns, and encamped at half a Mile from the Place, between Tſchauſwitz and Klumpenau.

On the 5th a large Body of their Troops paſſed over the Neiſs near that laſt mentioned Place; another Body ſtill remained in the Camp; and as I obſerved that the Approaches and Redoubts were ſtill full of Men, I ordered a Sally at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, with 600 Foot, 300 Horſe, and 60 Huſſars.

My

(Price Three Pence)

Wing; and this Scheme was ſo well executed, that the Colonel Marquis de Graviſe, of the Bavarian Troops, 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 1 Enſign, and 451 as well Subalterns as private Men, of divers Regiments, were made Priſoners, and about 60 of the Enemy killed. Eighty one Deſerters came alſo over to us, and above 100 more the following Night. We had 6 Men killed, 9 wounded, and 12 miſſing.

The Enemy have, at laſt, entirely abandoned the Approaches on the 6th at One in the Morning, and marched to Ziegenhals. Above 70 Deſerters came over to us that Day. The Enemy were obliged to leave behind them ſeveral Thouſands of Bomb Shells of 50 and 70 Pound Weight, a large Quantity of Cannon Balls of 36, 24, 12, and Six Pound Weight, and a great many Granadoes ready charged, as may be ſeen in the following Liſt.

De Treſkow, Lieutenant General.

Liſt of the Ammunition and Implements, which the Enemy abandoned near Klumpenau, before the Fortreſs of Neiſs.

22000 Cannon Balls of 24 Pound Weight; 23000 Ditto of 12; 1700 Bomb Shells of 75 Pound Weight; 3900 Ditto of 50; 6100 Ditto of 30; 6000 Ditto of 10 and 7; 20000 Granadoes; 500 Iron Crows; 1000 Joiſts, and 500 thick Planks, for Batteries; and 10 Gunpowder Magazines.

N. B. The Balls, Bomb Shells, and Granadoes, not being ranged pyramidically, we have not been able to give a more exact Account of it in this Liſt; but we have likewiſe found a great Quantity of Ammunition of all Kinds dropt upon the Roads as far as two Leagues from the Fortreſs.

De Merkatz, Colonel of Artillery.

Neiſs, Nov. 10, 1758

After raiſing the Siege of Neiſs, General Harſch retired from Freudenthal, where he arrived the 9th, into Bohemia, by Alt-Stadt and Gruliſh, and General de Ville by Neuſtadt to Troppau. The Deſertion in theſe two Corps continues to be very great, and ſometimes 100 Deſerters come in one Day to Neiſs.

The Fortreſs of Coſſell, which has been blockaded theſe four Months, is likewiſe relieved, by the Reſolution the Enemy took in the Night between the 9th and 10th, to retire and take the Route of Troppau.

Berlin, Nov. 18. Marſhal Daun perceiving, that, notwithſtanding the Advantage he had gained at Hochkirch, he had failed in his principal Deſign, which was, to prevent the King of Pruſſia from marching into Sileſia, and raiſing the Siege of Neiſs, thought it proper however to take Advantage of the Abſence of his Majeſty, by falling upon Saxony, in Hopes of making himſelf Maſter, at the ſame Time, of the Cities of Dreſden, Leipzig, and Torgau. For this Purpoſe, he followed the King no farther than Gorlitz, and after detaching a Body of about 24000 Men, in order to make his Majeſty believe by their March, that the whole Auſtrian Army was upon his Skirts, he himſelf made forced Marches with the main Body towards Dreſden, after having paſſed the Elbe at Pirna. On the 8th Count Schmettau, Governor of Dreſden, was informed, that Marſhal Daun approached the City with his whole Army, and a Part of that of the Empire. Finding himſelf threatened with a Siege, he gave Orders to the Free Battalions quartered in the Suburbs, to defend themſelves from Houſe to Houſe, and to ſet fire to the Streets where they could not keep their Ground. The Court having been informed of theſe Orders, ſent M. de Boſe to Count Schmettau, to ſignify to him, that their Royal Highneſſes hoped that, in the Place of their Reſidence he would not proceed to ſuch Extremities; to which M. Schmettau made Anſwer, that the City of Dreſden being a Fortreſs, with the Defence of which he was charged, he could not avoid burning the Suburbs, whenever they became detrimental to him; but nevertheleſs, if the Court could induce Marſhal Daun to give his Word of Honour not to attack the Town on that Side, he, on his Part, would give his, not to touch the Suburbs: But the Court made Anſwer, That their Hands were too much tied up for them to interfere therein. Here it is proper to add, that it was declared, ſeveral Months before, both to the young Court, and to the States of the Country, and Magiſtrates of Dreſden, that it depended upon the Court to prevent the Suburbs from being burnt, if they would agree with the Auſtrian Generals that that Capital ſhould not be attacked. On the 9th, about Noon, the Enemy advanced, with their whole Army, behind the Grand Garden. The advanced Poſts immediately charged our Free Battalions and Huſſars, drove them into the Suburbs, attacked the 700 Foot which were poſted there under the Command of Col. Itzenplitz, and puſhed forward as far as the Pirna and Ram Gates, from whence however, they were repulſed. About Midnight we learned, that Marſhal Daun was erecting four Batteries, under Cover of which he intended attacking the Suburbs. M. Schmettau, therefore, on the 10th, could no longer defer ſetting Fire to that Part of the Suburbs, which are cloſe to the Ramparts, in order to prevent the Enemy from making a Lodgment there. However, not more than one Third of the Houſes were conſumed. In the Afternoon, Marſhal Daun ſent Col. Savoiſki to Count Schmettau, to acquaint him, that ſuch Proceedings were not uſual in a Place, which was to be conſidered as the Reſidence of a Royal Family; and that he, in his own Perſon, muſt be reſponſible for it: To which M. Schmettau anſwered, That the Marſhal ought to be too well inſtructed in the Rules of War, to be ſurprized at it, and not to know, that when an Enemy approaches a Town, and attacks it as a Fortreſs, it is uſual to burn the Suburbs. As M. de Savoiſki replied, that the Marſhal hoped they would, at leaſt, ſpare the City, M. Schmettau anſwered, that that depended on the Marſhal; but if they intended to batter the Town in Breach, and take it by Aſſault, he would defend it from Street to Street, and at laſt the Caſtle itſelf.

Whilſt Marſhal Daun was thus imployed in reducing the City of Dreſden, a Body of the Army of the Circles, advanced before Leipzig; and General Haddick marched with 10000 Men towards Torgau, imagining he ſhould carry, by Storm, a Place almoſt without Defence. But the King, who had not been impoſed upon by theſe Demonſtrations of Marſhal Daun, had given Orders to Lieutenant General Count Dohna, and Major General de Wedel, to march with a Part of the Troops under their Command towards Saxony, to ſupply the Place of thoſe who were drawn off by his March into Sileſia. On the 12th M. de Wedel got to Hertzberg, where he heard of the Arrival of General Haddick before Torgau; and having Recourſe only to his Courage in ſo preſſing a Danger, went, with 200 Huſſars, with the utmoſt Haſte, to Torgau; the Reſt of his Cavalry and Infantry following as faſt as poſſible. After which M. de Wedel attacked the Enemy with 15 Squadrons ſo briskly, that he obliged them to retire, with great Precipitation, as far as Eulenbourg. We made on this Occaſion about Twenty Priſoners. General Wedel waited at Torgau for Count Dohna, who having joined him on the 14th, they directed their March together towards Eulenbourg. The King marched at the ſame Time, with all poſſible Expedition, on his Return into Luſatia. On the 15th his Majeſty came to Lauban; Marſhal Daun did not think proper to wait the Arrival of the King, but after having made ſeveral unſucceſsful Attempts before Dreſden, between the 8th and 16th, he retired, on the laſt mentioned Day, to Pirna, giving up his great Deſigns upon Saxony. Thus the King, merely by the Report of his marching, occaſioned the raiſing of two Seiges in 14 Days Time; which plainly proves the Falſity of the exagerated Accounts publiſhed by the Enemy, of the famous Action of Hochkirchen. The Body of Troops, which remained near Dreſden under the Command of Lieutenant General Itzemplitz, finding themſelves too weak to oppoſe the united Forces of Prince Deux Ponts and Marſhal Daun, filed off by the City of Dreſden, and poſted themſelves on this Side of the Elbe, where they wait to be reinforced, in order to repaſs the Elbe, and purſue the Enemy.

The Journal annexed will ſhew the Particulars of what paſſed in this Army, as well as at Dreſden, from the 5th to the 14th of this Month.

Lieutenant General Manteuffell remains with a conſiderable

and Swedes. Nothing lately has happened with the Swedes except that our Huſſars, on the 14th, put to the Sword ſome Swediſh Huſſars, and made eight Priſoners.

All the Accounts from Pomerania confirm, that the main Body of the Ruſſians have not only quitted their Camp at Dramburg, but have even entered Poland, directing their march by Timpelburg towards the Viſtula; there only remains now a few Parties of Coſſacks, who ravage the Circles of Pomerania adjoining to Poland.

On the 9th, a Ruſſian Captain arrived with 70 Men at Stargard, to reclaim the Soldiers who had been left as Safe-Guards in Pomerania, and after receiving Satisfaction, he returned to his Army by Drambourg. Two Swediſh Veſſels are arrived at Rugenwalde, loaded with Ammunition for the Siege of Colberg; but that Seige being raiſed, they ſet Sail again for Stralſund.

Journal of what happened at Dreſden, and at the Army encamped there, from the 5th to the 14th of November, 1758.

On the 3d of November, the Army of the Empire had changed its Poſition, and on the 4th their Van Guard having reached Frybourg, and an advanced Poſt having been placed at Noſſen, the Remainder of the Army, and the Corps under Serbelloni being encamped at Lauenſtein, there were only ſome thouſand Light Troops, which kept the old Camp at Struppen, the Poſt of Pirna, and the Bridges on the River. Major General Meyer, in order to be certain of this, on the 4th in the Evening attacked the advanced Poſts of the Pandours with 300 Men of the Free Batallion and 200 Huſſars, and drove them from the Brick Kiln of Pirna, which was conſumed, during the Attack, by the Enemy's ſetting Fire to it. He purſued them by Klein-ſedlitz to the Garden of Groſs-ſedlitz; and after having ſufficiently reconnoitred the Poſition of the Enemy, and being aſſured of its March, he returned to the Camp with two Priſoners, having loſt only one Chaſſeur and two Men of his Batallion. In theſe Circumſtances the Generals reſolved to quit the Poſts of Gamig and Mixon, to prevent the being flanked by the Enemy. In Conſequence of which Reſolution, the Army marched on the 5th, at Day-break, in Columns, to Bennewitz and Keſſelsdorff, where they arrived about Noon; and fixed their advanced Poſts at Potſchapel, Hertzogſwalde, and Wilſdruff. In their March there was a Skirmiſh between the Rear Guard and the Pandours, who harraſſed them inceſſantly, in Hopes of getting ſome Plunder. In order to draw them into the Plain, and get rid of them, Lieutenant Colonel Belling, of the Black Huſſars, lay in Ambuſcade in a Village on the Side of the Road, whilſt the Pandours, who imagined their Retreat open, kept advancing into the Plain, till on a Signal given, two Companies of the Batallion of Wrench, and a Squadron of Meinecke, faced about and charged them in Front and in Flank: They then attempted, with the utmoſt Precipitation, to return towards the Village; but M. Belling ruſhed upon them Sword in Hand, killed about an Hundred, diſperſed the reſt, and ſent 1 Lieutenant, 1 Cornet, 6 Huſſars, and 46 Pandours, Priſoners, into the City. The reſt of the Day paſſed quietly. On the 6th in the Morning they learned, that a great Reinforcement, which Marſhal Daun ſent to the Prince of Deux Ponts, was on the 5th, after five forced Marches, at Bichoffswerda; and on the 6th, at Night, they could eaſily ſee the whole of this Corps, which they imagined to be near 20,000 Men, range themſelves in Order of Battle on the Heights of Lockwitz, after having croſſed the Elbe. The Suburbs of the City being unguarded, the whole Garriſon of Dreſden remained that Night under Arms; it however paſſed quietly. On the Seventh, in the Morning, General Meyer poſted himſelf in the Suburbs with his Battalion, that of Chaſſignon, and the Black Huſſars. On the Eighth, about Three o' Clock in the Afternoon, the Enemy cauſed a large Detachment of Cavalry and Huſſars to advance, in Order to reconnoitre the Out-Skirts of the Town; about 300 Men, divided into 4 Troops, advanced within Muſket-Shot of the Garden of Moſchinſka, and ſkirmiſhed there a long Time with our Huſſars, General Meyer, having placed ſome ſmall Pieces of Cannon in the Great Garden, and ſent ſome Companies to ſupport the Huſſars, killed many of the Enemy, who retreated about Sun-ſet: As it was thought in the Town, that this Affair would have been more ſerious, the Alarm was given, and the whole Garriſon kept under Arms. However, this Night too paſſed quietly. Our Generals had reſolved at Eight in the Morning to quit that Poſt, and to retire towards Meiſſen, in order to draw near to the Succours, expected from the Marche; but that Reſolution was altered, and they remained in the ſame Poſition the Eighth, whilſt a Bridge of Pontoons was made upon the Elbe, below the City, over which the Baggage paſſed that very Night. On the 9th, every Thing remained in the ſame Situation all the Morning; but towards Three in the Afternoon the Body of the Enemy's Army advanced in Order of Battle to the Town on the Side of the Grand Garden, before the Pirna Gate. Two Hundred Black Huſſars, and the ſame Number of the Battalion of Chaſſignon, who were poſted there, ſkirmiſhed with the Enemy, till they were obliged, by too great Superiority againſt them, to confine themſelves within the Suburbs, whilſt the Enemy's Flanks were fired upon by four Pieces of Cannon placed at the Garden of Zinzendorf. Towards Sun-ſet the Firing ceaſed on both Sides; and the Enemy encamped behind the great Garden, ſo near the Town, that their Tattoo Drums could be heard upon the Ramparts. The Houſes of the Suburbs, that were neareſt the Ramparts, and moſt detrimental to the Defence thereof, had, the Day before, been filled with combuſtible Matter. That Evening Lieut. General Schmettau gave an Order to the Free Battalions to defend themſelves in Caſe they were attacked at Night, in the Suburbs, from Houſe to Houſe, and to ſet Fire to all the Streets where they could not keep their Ground. The Court having been informed of this Order, ſent M. de Boſe to Lieut. General Schmettau, to ſignify to him, that their Royal Highneſſes hoped he would not proceed to ſuch Extremities in the Place of their Reſidence; To which the General returned for Anſwer, That as he was charged with the Defence of the Fortreſs of Dreſden, he could not avoid burning its Suburbs, as ſoon as they became detrimental to him; but however, if the Court could induce Marſhal Daun to engage his Word of Honour not to attack the Town on that Side, he would likewiſe engage his own, not to touch the Suburbs. Upon which the Court having replied, That their Hands were too much tied up for that, nothing more paſſed that Evening, whilſt our Army was filing off by the Bridges they had thrown over the Elbe, and remained the whole Night under Arms. About Midnight we learned, that the Enemy, whoſe Army Marſhal Daun commanded in Perſon, erected four Batteries, under the Cover of which he would attack the Suburbs, which might have put us under the Neceſſity of abandoning them, without being able to ſet Fire to them; therefore, on the 10th, at Three o'Clock in the Morning, as ſoon as we ſaw the Enemy approaching the Suburbs, Directions were given to the Free Battalions to fall back into the City, and ſet Fire to the Suburbs, which was immediately executed, and at the ſame Time red hot Balls being fired from the Cannon and Haubitzers of the Ramparts, and ſome Royal Granadoes, the Conflagration ſoon became general enough to ſecure the Ramparts from any Attack. Then the Free Battalions were ordered to march through the City, and to paſs the Elbe over the great Bridge, whilſt the Army marched round the New Town and encamped under the Cannon of the Ramparts. In the mean while, Lieut. Colonel Wrenſch was ſent, with two Battalions to diſlodge the Pandours from the Defiles of Weiſſenhirſch, in which he ſucceeded, made five Priſoners, and took Poſt ſo as to ſecure the right Wing of our Army from any Attack. About Four o' Clock in the Afternoon, Marſhal Daun ſent a Colonel with a Trumpet to Count Schmettau. This Officer was ordered to tell him, from Marſhal Daun, that he was greatly ſurprized at the unheard of, and unchriſtian-like Manner, in which he had acted, in ſetting Fire to the Suburbs of a Royal Reſidence, and that he in his own Perſon ſhould be reſponſible for this Misfortune, as well as for any other which might happen